LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended)   A method for estimating a bucket transition distribution for one or more bonds, comprising the steps of: identifying a plurality of price buckets; calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a first bond; and estimating a bucket transition distribution for the first bond using the calculated bucket transition probabilities.

2. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein one of the price buckets corresponds to an exit state, and wherein the estimating the bucket transition distribution for the first bond step includes estimating a plurality of bucket transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until the exit state or a maturity date of the first bond is reached, thereby completing a first simulation.

3. (Original)   The method of claim 2, wherein the exit state is one of a default and a call.

4. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 1, wherein the estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining the a probability that the first bond is in a particular bucket at a particular time.

5. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 4, wherein one of the price buckets corresponds to a default state and the estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining a default rate for a particular time period for the first bond.

6. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 5, wherein the estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining a cumulative default rate for a number of time periods by summing default balances for each of the number of time periods and dividing the sum by an average balance for a first of the number of time periods.

7. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, further including conducting multiple simulations.

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8. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 2, further including calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a second bond; estimating a bucket transition distribution for the second bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities; and grouping the estimated bucket transition distributions for the ~~bonds~~first bond and the second bond, thereby enabling an evaluation of ~~the~~ a credit risk of the ~~bonds~~first bond and the second bond.

9. (Currently Amended)   A system for estimating a bucket transition distribution for one or more bonds, comprising: means for identifying a plurality of price buckets; means for calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a first bond; and means for estimating a bucket transition distribution for ~~the~~ a first bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities.

10. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim ~~10~~9, further including means for estimating a plurality of bucket transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until an exit state, corresponding to one of the price buckets, or a maturity date of the first bond is reached, thereby completing a first simulation.

11. (Original) The system of claim 10, wherein the exit state is one of a default and a call.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the means for estimating includes a means for determining the probability that the first bond is in a particular bucket at a particular time.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the means for estimating includes a means for determining a default rate for a particular time period for the first bond.

14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the estimating means includes a means for determining a cumulative default rate for a number of time periods by summing default

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balances for each of the number of time periods and dividing the sum by an average balance for a first of the number of time periods.

15. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 9, further including conducting multiple simulations.

16. (Currently Amended)   The system of claim 9 for estimating a bucket transition distribution for one or more bonds, further comprising: means for calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a second bond; means for estimating a bucket transition distribution for the second bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities of the second bond; and means for grouping a plurality of the ~~estimated~~ bucket transition distributions for the first bond and the second bond~~bonds~~, thereby enabling an evaluation of the credit risk of the first bond and the second bond~~bonds~~.

17. (Currently Amended)   A computer readable medium for estimating a bucket transition distribution for one or more bonds, the medium comprising a program to cause ~~that causes~~ a processor to implement ~~the steps of~~: identifying a plurality of price buckets; calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a first bond; and estimating a bucket transition distribution for the first bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities.

18. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim 17~~15~~, wherein one of the price buckets corresponds to an exit state, and wherein ~~the~~ estimating a bucket transition distribution step includes estimating a plurality of bucket transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until the exit state or a maturity date of the first bond is reached, thereby completing a first trial.

19. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim 18~~16~~, wherein the exit state is one of a default and a call.

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20. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim ~~17~~19, wherein ~~the~~ estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining the probability that the first bond is in a particular bucket at a particular time.

21. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim 20~~18~~, wherein one of the price buckets corresponds to a default state and ~~the~~ estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining a default rate for a particular time period for the first bond.

22. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim ~~19~~21, wherein ~~the~~ estimating the bucket transition distribution includes determining a cumulative default rate for a number of time periods by summing a plurality of default balances for each of the number of time periods and dividing ~~the~~ a sum by an average balance for a first of the number of time periods.

23. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim ~~16~~17, ~~further including~~ wherein the estimating step includes repeatedly estimating a plurality of bucket transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until the exit state or a maturity date of the first bond is reached, thereby completing multiple trials.

24. (Currently Amended)   The computer readable medium of claim ~~16~~17, further including calculating a plurality of bucket transition probabilities for a second bond; estimating a bucket transition distribution for the second bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities for the second bond; and grouping the ~~estimated~~ bucket transition distributions for the first bond and the second bond~~bonds~~, thereby enabling an evaluation of the credit risk of the first bond and the second bond~~bonds~~.

25. (Currently Amended)   A device for estimating a bucket transition distribution for one or more bonds, comprising a processor configured to: identify a plurality of price buckets;

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calculate <u>a plurality of</u> bucket transition probabilities for a first bond; and estimate a bucket

transition distribution for the first bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition probabilities.

26. (Currently Amended)　　The device of claim 25, wherein one of the <u>price</u> buckets

corresponds to an exit state, and wherein the processor is configured to estimate bucket

transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until the exit state or a maturity date of the

first bond is reached, thereby completing a first simulation.

27. (Original)　The device of claim 26, wherein the exit state is one of a default and a call.

28. (Currently Amended)　　The device of claim 27, wherein the processor is configured

to determine ~~the~~ <u>a</u> probability that the first bond is in a particular bucket at a particular time.

29. (Currently Amended)　　The device of claim 28, wherein one of the <u>price</u> buckets

corresponds to a default state and the processor is configured to determine a default rate for a

particular time period for the first bond.

30. (Original)　The device of claim 29, wherein the processor is configured to determine a

cumulative default rate for a number of time periods by summing default balances for each of the

number of time periods and dividing the sum by an average balance for a first of the number of

time periods.

31. (Currently Amended)　　The device of claim 26, <u>wherein the processor is configured</u>

<u>to repeatedly estimate bucket transitions based on the bucket transition probabilities until the exit</u>

<u>state or a maturity date of the first bond is reached, thereby completing</u> ~~further including~~ multiple

simulations.

32. (Currently Amended)　　The device of claim 26, wherein the processor is further

configured to calculate <u>a plurality of</u> bucket transition probabilities for a second bond; estimate a

bucket transition distribution for the second bond using the ~~calculated~~ bucket transition

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probabilities for the second bond; and group the ~~estimated~~ bucket transition distributions for the

first bond and the second bond~~bonds~~, thereby enabling an evaluation of the credit risk of the first

bond and the second bond~~bonds~~.